



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/660,665 | 09/13/2000 | Donald J. McMichael | BAL-8/BA00169 | 6990 |

22827 7590 10/23/2002

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.
POST OFFICE BOX 1449
GREENVILLE, SC 29602-1449

EXAMINER

GHAFOORIAN, ROZ

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

3763

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

LC

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/660,665

Applicant(s)

MCMICHAEL, DONALD J.

Examiner

Roz Ghafoorian

Art Unit

3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 24-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 24-35 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected method of use, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 6.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 2 objected to because of the following informalities: the applicant has recited the limitation ""an enteral feeding adaptor" in line 1, however the applicant has used " the enteral feeding adaptor" for claims 3-17, there is lack of consistency. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
 - a. Claim 18 recites the limitation "the distal end" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-2, 10, 13-15, 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,399,173 to Parks et al.

Parks teaches an adapter body 70 contains at least a first port 88 configured for receiving a distal connector, the first port having at least one arcuate sidewall 92 for frictionally engaging the distal connector to sealingly secure the distal connector to the adaptor body; a tube 206 extending between the first port 88 and the medical feeding device 196. It further comprises a second port 204 configured for injection of medication there through into the tube. The first port further includes a cylindrical section disposed proximally of the first arcuate sidewall 92 and second arcuate sidewall 94. The first port also includes a third arcuate sidewall 86 distal of the second arcuate sidewall 94. The first, second, and third section form a distally extending channel having an increasingly smaller diameter.

5. Claim 1, 3-7, 10-11, 13-15, 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,267,983 to Oilschlager et al.

Art Unit: 3763

Oilschlager teaches an adapter body 12 contains at least a first port 42 configures for reserving a distal connector, the first port having at least one arcuate sidewall 12e for frictionally engaging the distal connector to sealing secure the dials connector to the adaptor body; a tube 18 extending between the first port 42 and the medical feeding device. The first port further includes a cylindrical section disposed proximally of the first arcuate sidewall 12e and second arcuate sidewall 12d. The first port also includes a third arcuate sidewall 12c distal of the second arcuate sidewall 12d. The first, second, and third section form a distally extending channel have an increasingly smaller diameter. It has at least one arcuate sidewall with a radius between of about 0.18 inches to 0.55 inches. (Col.3, lines 15-30)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 8-9, 12, 16, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S Patent No.5267983 to Oilschlager et al.

As mentioned above Oilschlager teaches an adapter body 12 contains at least a first port 42 configures for reserving a distal connector, the first port having at least one arcuate sidewall 12e for frictionally engaging the distal connector to sealing secure the dials connector to the adaptor body; a tube 18 extending between the first port 42 and

Art Unit: 3763

the medical feeding device. The first port further includes a cylindrical section disposed proximally of the first arcuate sidewall 12e and second arcuate sidewall 12d. The first port also includes a third arcuate sidewall 12c distal of the second arcuate sidewall 12d. The first, second, and third section form a distally extending channel have an increasingly smaller diameter. It has at least one arcuate sidewall with a radius between of about 0.18 inches to 0.55 inches. (Col.3, lines 15-30)

Oilschlager does not teach the fist arcuate sidewall with a radius of between about 0.45 inches to 0.55 inches.

In re of Rose, 220F.2d 459, 463, 105 USPQ 237, 240 (CCPA 1955) it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have changed the size of the sidewalls to a larger size to allow for a larger feeding device connection and hence it would increase the application use and function of Oilschlager's device.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roz Ghafoorian whose telephone number is 703-305-2336. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 703-308-3552. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

Application/Control Number: 09/660,665

Page 6

Art Unit: 3763

RG

October 17, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rosen' or similar, with a stylized, cursive script.A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michael J. Hayes', written in a cursive style.

MICHAEL J. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER